

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Rejection of Claims 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office rejected claims 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being drawn to non-statutory subject matter. The Applicant *agrees* and has amended claim 15 to recite a method of teaching phonetic reading. The Applicant has also amended claims 16-18 to depend on claim 15.

II. Rejection of Claims 2-6, 13-14, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Office rejected claims 2-6, 13-14, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for referring to "clarifying symbols" and "symbols" without providing an antecedent basis. The Applicant *agrees* and has amended the independent claims to provide sufficient antecedent basis.

III. Rejection of claims 1-2, 7-13, 15, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office rejected claims 1-2, 7-13, 15, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for being anticipated by Rai 6,604,947. The Office argued that Rai teaches a visual representation of a plurality of words using ordinary spelling with adjacently placed symbols that consist primarily of the letters of a standard alphabet. The Applicant disagrees, but to further prosecution has amended independent claim 1 to recite that "each clarifying symbol consists entirely of underlined or non-underlined letters of a standard alphabet" and independent claim 15 to recite "presenting to a student an alphabet of phonetic symbols consisting of underlined and non-underlined letters selected from the group consisting of a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z." The present invention is specifically designed so that the clarifying symbols do not use iconography that deviates from letters used in the standard alphabet. (See Specification, P2-3) In contrast, the symbols used in Rai consist of both letters and symbolic icons that are drawn above or below the letters. (See Rai, C4/L19-25, C5/L31-36 and corresponding Fig. 2 and 3 and elements BREVE, MACRON, DIERESIS, and CIRCUMFLEX) Rai's symbols fail to consist entirely of underlined or non-underlined letters of a standard alphabet.

IV. Rejection of Claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office rejected claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious over Rai. The Office seems to argue that since the symbols used to aid the soundings of the words in Rai's

disclosure have standard letters, it would be obvious modify Rai to use clarifying symbols that only consist of standard letters. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As seen below, all of Rai's clarifying symbols either have symbolic icons, or are symbolic icons themselves.

F I G. 3

Root phonograms and relative sounding chart.

ROOT BLACK PHONOGRAMS sound	RELATIVE	BREVE sound	MACRON sound	DIERESIS ch	CIRCUMFLEX sh
church ch	school	choir			chandelier
ghost g	laugh				
photo f	Stephen				
thumb th	this				

Symbols that consist of both standard letters and symbolic icons are very different from symbols that consist exclusively of standard letters. The Office's argument might have some merit if the Applicant used the word "comprise" instead of "consist," but the word "consist" excludes any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claim. (See MPEP 2111.03 Transitional Phrases)

V. Rejection of Claims 5 and 6 under 35 USC 103

The Office also rejected claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) for being unpatentable over Rai in view of Sutherland 5,214,745. The Office appears to argue that it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching method of Rai with the artificial neural system of Sutherland. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. The field of each invention is drastically different. Rai teaches an instruction system teach students how to enunciate words and read out loud, where Sutherland teaches a computer program for creating

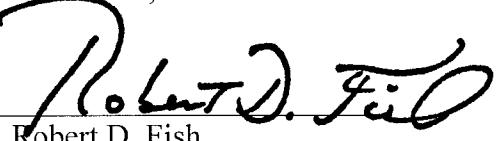
computer-speech. A person of ordinary skill in the art would not apply techniques for programming a computer to talk towards teaching human beings.

VI. Request for Allowance

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. The claims were amended to correct antecedent basis and subject matter issues, and to clarify that the symbols used in the inventive phonetic alphabet consist entirely of underlined or non-underlined letters of the standard alphabet, which none of the applicable prior art teaches. The Applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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